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3 February 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Situation in Calcutta Considered in Light of
Forthcoming Elections (1961-1962)

1. There is a volume of educated opinion which holds that the Communists in West Bengal will make a poor showing in the elections of 1961-1962.

2. However this may be for rural West Bengal, the case of Calcutta would seem to deserve special attention.

a. The problems of unemployment, general poverty, and the number and condition of the refugees remain.

b. It is reported that the city's water supply is fast becoming a grave problem.

c. It is known that the river access to the port of Calcutta is silting up.

d. It appears that neither the city nor the State of West Bengal has the ability to cope, nor

in the near future
is the Indian national government likely to lay out
the necessary resources.

c. Will not the economic deterioration inherent
in this situation benefit the Communist cause in
1961-1962?

SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates